

Batteries Included 2015 Holiday Mixer

On Dec. 12, 2015, Batteries Included held their Fourth Annual Holiday Mixer at Aloha Kitchen. The goal of this particular social development was to show Batteries Included youth appreciation and help adult advisors and teens in the programs to better get to know each other. More than 65 teens attended this year's Batteries Included Holiday Mixer and they had the opportunity to eat amazing



authentic Hawaiian food, exemplify their inner stardom through karaoke, and socialize with their peers and adult advisors. Through previous holiday mixers, Batteries Included staff has learned that this event helps every youth feel a little more dedicated to the program and a little more valued by their advisors and peers.



Batteries Included Partners with the Sheriff's African-American Advisory Committee

Batteries Included established a partnership with the Sheriff's African-American Advisory Committee. Through this partnership, the youth were responsible for designing a cellphone application that informs youth about laws and issues that impact their community. The youth were excited to be assigned such an important responsibility and they did not take this opportunity lightly. After weeks of meeting and planning, the youth agreed to an app name, established

the layout design, and identified the components they would like to include in the app. On Dec. 9, 2015, two youth members from the committee presented their ideas and app layout design to the City. The youth were beyond excited and nervous for the opportunity to present the material and share their vision. The application is still being developed, but so far the youth have decided to name the app, *H.O.P.E.*, which stands for Helping Out People Everywhere. Please stay tuned and follow the youth as they continue their journey to design an app that will be beneficial to youth across the globe.



Batteries Included Attends Nevada Partners Spice Awareness Event

On Monday, Nov. 2, 2015, Batteries Included members attended a Spice awareness event at Nevada Partners. After having a few light refreshments and conversations amongst one another, the presentation began. The presenter(s) explained that Spice is synthetic cannabis that basically gambles with your life. After being given a brief overview, youth were shown images and videos of what the harmful drug can do to you after just one use and how the drug is becoming an extensive problem in the Las Vegas area. Before the presentation was over, the audience was asked if they had any questions or comments. A mother of two had stepped up to the mic and shared her story of how her two daughters' death had to do with Spice, with a tear shedding every step of the way. It was an extremely sad way to end the event, but it was a very eye opening experience for the youth!

Batteries Included Youth Volunteers at Las Vegas Rescue Mission and the Giving Project

On Nov. 5, 2015, **Rancho High School Teen Council** provided a community service to the Las Vegas Rescue Mission by organizing their food supply storage rooms. The teens rolled up their sleeves and took charge to complete a task that Las Vegas Rescue Mission staff believed would take a week. Rancho Batteries Included youth were so eager and motivated to give back to their community they complete the task in three hours. It is amazing what hard work will do.



Batteries Included youth participated in the *Giving Project* on Dec. 12, 2015, at Rancho High School. Rancho's Batteries Included youth learned how to assist the homeless by not changing how they give, but changing their effectiveness. The teens picked up trash, assisted with distribution of shoes clothing, and they served food.



On Dec. 15, 2015, Rancho High School High School Teen Council wrapped over 700 gifts for needy families at the First Christian Church. The teens were exhausted yet they felt a sense of fulfillment. Rancho teens say, "It is all worth it, and they love providing service to their community." Way to go Rancho!

Batteries Included Revitalizes Monthly Presentation

When Batteries Included implemented the monthly presentations, the purpose was to provide youth with valuable information about an array of topics that they could apply in their daily lives. The participation from Batteries Included sites has increased over time and with an increase in youth participation, the program has

Monthly Presentation—continued

been able to get more effective feedback. Based on the responses from the youth, the monthly presentation will be more discussion based and geared around current events rather than informative styled information. One of Batteries Included former participants and current employee, Stephanie Johns, has been assigned to take the lead on this new launch. The new approach will engage youth in discussions about topics they believe are important and that matter to their community. The discussion topics and activities will be chosen by the youth advisory committee of four-five youth and will be facilitated and led by Stephanie Johns. If you would like to get your site signed up for presentations dates, please email: jrucker@lasvegasnevada.gov.

Batteries Included Participate in 2015 Las Vegas Great Santa Run

Teens from **Cimarron Memorial High School Teen Council** and **Las Vegas Academy Teen Council** participated in Opportunity Village's Las Vegas Great Santa Run. The Santa Run is not only one of Opportunity Villages' "most important fundraisers but also an internationally recognized holiday tradition that attracts families, businesses, individuals and global tourists to downtown Las Vegas." According to the Review Journal, more than 8,000 runners and walkers attired in Santa gear participated in this year's race through parts of downtown. Thanks to our sponsors, Batteries Included youth completed the full five mile run and had an opportunity to impact their community.



Batteries Included Packs Backpacks for Las Vegas My Brother's Keeper Resource Fair

Starting on Tuesday, Dec. 22, until Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015, Batteries Included teens stuffed over 1,500 backpacks with school supplies for the My Brother's Keeper Resource Fair. The fair supplied backpacks filled with several school supplies ranging from notebooks to pencils in the middle of the school year for students and **(Continued on page 3)**

My Brother's Keeper—continued



families from the *Las Vegas My Brother's Keeper* Schools which include Kermit R. Booker, Matt Kelly, H.P. Fitzgerald, Wendell P. Williams, and West Prep. The event was held at the Doolittle Community Center on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016, which was during Peace Week. Needless to say, it was a success!

Batteries Included Leadership Training

Batteries Included provides young people with self-discovery, cultural competency, leadership-building, and service through various trainings and meetings. The entire point of the Batteries Included program is to meet youth where they are and take them where they want to go. Through youth led weekly meetings, youth operated committees, and teen directed monthly Connections meetings they are able to demonstrate and improve their social action and leadership. The mission of the program is to enlighten and empower youth by providing them with the skills that will enhance the quality of their life. Through continuous leadership trainings, monthly officer's trainings, and consistent adult advisor mentoring, the youth in the Batteries Included program are able to develop the necessary skills to be the next generation of social change leaders. Please view the scheduled Connections Meetings and Officers Trainings dates.

2016 Connections Meetings:

Jan. 28; Feb. 25; March 17 and April 28

2016 Officer's Trainings:

Jan. 21; Feb. 18; March 10 and April 21

Cimarron Memorial High School Teen Council

On Dec. 16, 2015, 15 youth from **Cimarron Memorial High School Teen Council** spent more than two hours wrapping new toys that were donated from members of the community. The youth helped bring Christmas joy to less fortunate children in our community by wrapping over 70 toys for children between three to 12 years of age. Before the youth closed out their 2015 year, they decided to host their first of the year recruitment party on Jan. 13, 2016.

Batteries Included: 2015 Recap of Accomplishments and Successes

- * Batteries Included solidified partnership with The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach
- * Batteries Included participated in the 33rd Martin Luther King Jr. Parade
- * Batteries Included partnered with Nevada Partners and Studio 11 Productions to connect youth to film training opportunities
- * Batteries Included increased youth participation in the program by 58 percent this year compared to 2014
- * Batteries Included hosted four college road trips to Southern Utah University (April 2015), Dixie College, (April 2015), University of Nevada Las Vegas (September 2015) and University of Southern California (October 2015)
- * Batteries Included partnered with Nevada Partners and hosted a college readiness workshop at The Center
- * Batteries Included continued partnership with Southern Nevada Health District's *Be Proud Be Responsible*
- * Batteries Included established a relationship with LGBTQ The Center
- * Batteries Included hosted a free *Selma* movie screening and panel discussion at South Point Casino
- * Batteries Included hosted its Eighth Annual Youth Achievement Gala
- * Batteries Included graduated 98 percent of its teen participants
- * Batteries Included hosted free three-day cultural leadership retreat in Mount Potosi
- * Batteries Included added six more sites to the program (Spring Valley High School, Western High School, West Preparatory High School, Bonanza High School, Rancho High School and Durango High School)
- * Nevada Partners facilitated employability trainings for Batteries Included youth, and four youth landed paid jobs and three youth earned unpaid internships
- * Batteries Included increased 2015 summer circuit youth attendance by 50 percent compared to last year's attendance



Batteries Included: Important Youth Opportunities

2016 Batteries Included Youth Achievement Gala Committee

Batteries Included is looking for eight teens who are consistent, organized, and want to plan the hottest event of the year. Teens will come **(Continued on page 4)**

Yoth Opportunities–continued

together to share their creative side and put together the Annual Batteries Included Gala in May of 2016!

- ★ Youth will be responsible for creating the itinerary and theme for the 2016 Youth Achievement Gala
- ★ Youth will create and purchase decoration items for the Gala
- ★ Youth will be involved in the food, venue, guest speaker(s) and guest list selection

Mayor Carolyn Goodman will see all of your hard work!

2016 Batteries Included Summer Circuit Committee

Batteries Included is looking for eight teens to design, coordinate, and implement 2016 summer activities and events.

- ★ Maintain communication amongst Batteries Included Sites throughout the long and deserved break
- ★ Youth will design and draft all promotional material.
- ★ Youth will develop and implement teen engaging activities and events.

Youth will be representatives for Batteries Included and speak to news reporters and may even have a part in the Las Vegas Review Journal!

2016 Nevada Partners Employability Training

The training is to give those who are ages 16-24 opportunities to be introduced to potential employers and the knowledge they need to become employed.

- ★ Participants will learn to build the perfect resume.
- ★ Participants will learn to speak in a professional manner.
- ★ Participants will enhance and develop their employment skills if they stick with the eight-week course.

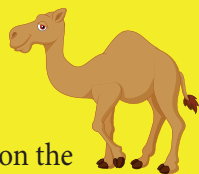
2016 Batteries Included Announces Paid Internships

Batteries Included now has an open list for 20 Batteries Included intern positions. If you are interested in this position, please contact smitchell@lasvegasnevada.gov.

Batteries Included: Just In Case You Did Not Know

Nevada Laws

It is illegal to drive a camel on the highway. After all, it would violate the minimum speed law!



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**For more information on
Batteries Included
programs and activities,
please call (702) 229-6242.**